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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

9 JANUARY 2019

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Diego – 10,000 Fentanyl Pills Smuggled in Covert Operations

(U) Four people were arrested Monday on accusations of working for a fentanyl-smuggling ring that supplied undercover agents with thousands of counterfeit oxycodone pills. The operation acquired more than 10,000 fentanyl pills that were smuggled from Mexico through San Diego ports of entry, according to a complaint filed yesterday in San Diego federal court. Undercover agents put in orders for the pills, known as “pressed blues,” with a known Tijuana drug trafficker, the complaint states. He and his associates would then smuggle the pills into the US. The latest purchase happened last month, when agents negotiated the sale of about 4,000 pills for \$24,000.

SOURCE: 8 January 2019, [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Arizona – More Than 180 Arrested in Three-Month Gang Sting

(U) Phoenix – The US Marshals Service said more than 180 people were arrested following a three-month sting that aimed to crack down on gang activity in Maricopa and Pima counties. In a statement, the Marshals Service said Operation Triple Beam began in October and ended in December with 182 arrests and 27 firearms seized. People arrested face charges including homicide, weapons offenses, robbery, aggravated assault and possession of dangerous drugs. Officials also seized 11 pounds of heroin, 6 pounds of methamphetamine and 300 Fentanyl pills during the operation, the agency said.

SOURCE: 8 January 2019, [AZ Central](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Australia – Suspicious Packages Investigated at Consulates, Embassies

(U) Melbourne – Authorities said today that they were investigating suspicious packages that had been sent to several consulates and embassies in Melbourne and Canberra. Victoria State Emergency Services began reporting hazardous-materials alerts along major streets that are home to numerous foreign consulates in Melbourne, the country's second-largest city. US diplomatic officials in Australia reported that the US Consulate in Melbourne was among the institutions that had received the packages.

Hazardous Material crews tested the powder and found no poisons or toxins.

SOURCE: 8 January 2019, [NBC News](#)

(U) China – 20 Children Injured in Hammer Attack

(U) Beijing – A 49-year-old man injured 20 children with a hammer yesterday inside a primary school in China's capital, officials said. Three of the children have serious but non-life-threatening injuries, the Xicheng district government said. The suspect was apprehended at the scene, and was employed through a labor service company to perform daily maintenance work at the school. His contract was set to expire this month and had not been renewed. It is believed that the suspect wielded a hammer that he normally used for work to injure students during class as an expression of his dissatisfaction.

SOURCE: 8 January 2019, [ABC News](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) Germany – Syrian Charged with Murder that Sparked Chemnitz Riots**

(U) Berlin – A Syrian man has been charged by German prosecutors with second-degree murder over the stabbing of a Cuban-German citizen last year that set off the worst far-right riots in decades. Prosecutors said the suspect, identified only as Alaa S. under Germany's privacy laws, stabbed the man during a quarrel in the eastern city of Chemnitz. The killing in August touched off violent clashes between neo-Nazis and police as well as demonstrations by far-right groups opposed to Chancellor Angela Merkel's 2015 decision to welcome almost 1 million asylum seekers. German authorities have also issued an international arrest warrant for an Iraqi suspect, identified as Farhad R.A, who is on the run after going into hiding after the incident in Chemnitz. He is also suspected of stabbing the Cuban-German victim.

SOURCE: 8 January 2019, [Reuters](#)

(U) Mexico – 370 Illegal Crossings Points on Guatemala Border to be Regulated

(U) Mexico City – The Mexican government has pledged to put guards at some 370 illegal crossing points along the country's southern border with Guatemala. The crossings "will be guarded and controlled to prevent the entry of undocumented people," Interior Secretary Olga Sanchez Cordero said. Currently, migrants cross along almost the entire length of the Usumacinta and Suchiate rivers that separate the two countries. Sanchez Cordero did not set a date for accomplishing the task of securing the porous border. But she said Mexico would not allow a repeat of events in October, when caravans of Central American migrants scuffled with Mexican police on the main border bridge, and then simply crossed the river to gain entry.

SOURCE: 8 January 2019, [ABC News](#)

(U) Syria – Kurds Capture Eight ISIS Fighters, Including US Teenager

(U) Deir ez-Zor – A Syrian Kurdish militia says its fighters have captured eight ISIS foreign fighters in eastern Syria which included a teenager from the US. The force known as the People's Protection Units, or YPG, says the militants were captured in a special operation in the eastern province of Deir el-Zour, where ISIS extremists are still holding on to pockets of territory. Among the eight are an American, a German, a Russian, a Tajik, Uzbek and Ukrainian nationals. In a statement, the YPG identified the 16-year-old American teenager as Soulay Noah Su. No other details were immediately provided.

SOURCE: 9 January 2019, [ABC News](#)

(U) United Kingdom – Drone Sighting Halts Departures at Heathrow Airport

(U) London – A possible drone sighting prompted officials at London's Heathrow Airport, the busiest in Europe, to stop all departures on yesterday evening, less than three weeks after Gatwick, Britain's second-busiest airport, was shut down for parts of three days because of drone sightings. Heathrow, just a few miles west of London, said on Twitter that it was working with the Metropolitan Police, and "as a precautionary measure, we have stopped departures while we investigate."

SOURCE: 9 January 2019, [The New York Times](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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